

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FILED**

11/06/18  
04:59 PM

Order Instituting Investigation pursuant to Senate Bill 380 to determine the feasibility of minimizing or eliminating the use of the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility located in the County of Los Angeles while still maintaining energy and electric reliability for the region.

Investigation 17-02-002  
(Filed November 5, 2018)

**NOTICE OF POTENTIAL EX PARTE COMMUNICATION OF ISSAM NAJM**

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.1(e)(3) and Rules 8.3 and 8.4 of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, I file this notice of potential ex parte communication.

On October 30, 2018, as President of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) I submitted a letter from the PRNC to the PUC Commissioners which was posted to the docket of Proceeding I.17-02-002 and distributed to the proceeding's service list on October 31, 2018. Commissioner Picker replied to my transmission email which was followed by an email exchange. The full email exchange is attached.

Dated: November 5, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Issam Najm", is written over a horizontal line.

Issam Najm, Resident  
Porter Ranch, California

Attachments:

Text of Email Exchange

From: **Issam Najm** <IssamNajm@prnc.org>  
Subject: Re: Letter Regarding Aliso Canyon  
Date: October 31, 2018 at 3:06 PM  
To: Picker, Michael <Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov>

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I am very sorry to hear that.

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**Issam Najm, Ph.D.**  
**Board President**  
**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council**  
[IssamNajm@prnc.org](mailto:IssamNajm@prnc.org)

On Oct 31, 2018, at 3:04 PM, Picker, Michael <[Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov)> wrote:

I disagree.

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**From:** Issam Najm <[IssamNajm@prnc.org](mailto:IssamNajm@prnc.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018 2:20 PM  
**To:** Picker, Michael <[Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rechtschaffen, Cliff <[Cliff.Rechtschaffen@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Cliff.Rechtschaffen@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Peterman, Carla J. <[Carla.Peterman@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Carla.Peterman@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Guzman Aceves, Martha <[Martha.GuzmanAceves@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Martha.GuzmanAceves@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Randolph, Liane <[Liane.Randolph@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Liane.Randolph@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Stebbins, Alice <[Alice.Stebbins@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Alice.Stebbins@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Lisa Malashenko <[elisaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:elisaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Bruno, Kenneth <[kenneth.bruno@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:kenneth.bruno@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter Regarding Aliso Canyon

Dear President Picker,

I realize I probably need to file another ex-parte communication notice on this, but that is fine. I am a bit surprised by your response. You seem to imply that the only failure here was ours because we did not understand what we are living next to! We know about Termo's oil operation on the property... and by the way, I assume you also know that they were venting their off-gas under a tree to hide it from inspectors when they could not put it into the gas system during the blowout? But we are not going to talk about that here.

The letter is not about the existence of oil operation. The letter is about the blatant fraud committed by the Gas Company against the people by 1) withholding the fact that there was crude oil in the gas that they showered the community with for four months, which they unquestionably knew about all along since they have to remove it from the gas themselves, and 2) they actively deceived us into a false sense of safety by constantly stating in public communications that there are no long-term health effects to the exposure because the gas only contained mercaptans which have only short-term health effects. Should we not be upset about that?

I understand that the PUC has no authority over the non-SoCalGas activities. But the PUC has authority over SoCalGas. The PUC regulates every aspect of their operation. I understand the Commission has to worry about the gas supply for the entire State, but I would think the Commission would not tolerate fraudulent activities by the very

companies that you oversee. If this were a municipal entity, the People would have a say in how this fraud is handled. Unfortunately, SoCalGas is not a municipal entity. For better or for worse, the Commission is the only agent of the People in all aspects of this matter, and we are appealing to you to exercise that role.

As a father of three children who grew up in Porter Ranch, it is my job to protect the health and wellbeing of my family, and I don't take well to a company that showers my family with very harmful chemicals with known long-lasting health effects, while actively lying to me about it. This went on for four months! I am sure no one would take well to that either. We are only asking you to walk a mile in our shoes, and consider what we are having to deal with on our own!

Thank You.

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Issam Najm, Ph.D.  
Board President  
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council  
[IssamNajm@prnc.org](mailto:IssamNajm@prnc.org)

On Oct 31, 2018, at 10:54 AM, Picker, Michael  
<[Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov)> wrote:

I'm always surprised that the community does not still does not know that they live in the midst of an active oil and gas extraction field, not just a storage field. I'm also always surprised that they didn't pay attention to my warnings in early community meetings that the CPUC has no authority over those activities.

I'm pasting in a response from the CEC's gas and oil consultant for your further awareness.

**From:** Catherine Elder <[Kelder@aspeneg.com](mailto:Kelder@aspeneg.com)>

**Date:** October 31, 2018 at 9:24:32 AM PDT

**To:** "Weisenmiller, Robert@Energy" <[Robert.Weisenmiller@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Weisenmiller@energy.ca.gov)>,

"Mack, Grant@Energy" <[Grant.Mack@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Grant.Mack@energy.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** Aliso and oil production

Belt and suspenders here to make sure you know that there is oil production ongoing at Aliso that is NOT owned by SoCalGas. There are at least two and maybe three different operators of oil wells. I used to know their names and anyone should be able to find them on DOGGR's website. Most of the oil production *\_should\_* be from a different depth in the formation than the gas storage, but the storage formation itself is an oil old field and there remains oil embedded in those rocks.

I believe SoCal has two oil storage tanks located down near the compressor station. They strip a relatively small amount of oil out of the gas withdrawn from storage and hold it until a truck comes in to get it. That truck has to drive through

storage and now when a truck comes in to get it, that truck has to drive through the neighborhood to get from the freeway to the Aliso gate.

I also *\_thought\_* this was covered in the CCST study – yes, the fact that there is “collocated active production” at Aliso is identified in Table 1.1-1 of the study and is shown in Figure 1.1-5. And I see discussion of the fact that the gas storage is into an old oil field. And then even Seth’s chapter on health effects is clear that the hazards are different depending on the composition of the stored gas and whether it was stored in a depleted gas vs. depleted oil reservoir.

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**From:** Issam Najm <[IssamNajm@prnc.org](mailto:IssamNajm@prnc.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:40 PM  
**To:** Picker, Michael <[Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Picker@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Rechtschaffen, Cliff <[Cliff.Rechtschaffen@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Cliff.Rechtschaffen@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Peterman, Carla J. <[Carla.Peterman@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Carla.Peterman@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Guzman Aceves, Martha <[Martha.GuzmanAceves@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Martha.GuzmanAceves@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Randolph, Liane <[Liane.Randolph@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Liane.Randolph@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter Regarding Aliso Canyon

Dear Commissioners Picker, Rechtschaffen, Peterman, Guzman Ceves, and Randolph:

Please accept the attached letter from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. We urge you to review it and consider our request. We look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible. A hard copy of this letter will also follow by US Mail.

Respectfully Yours.

P.S. While this letter is from the Neighborhood Council, it bears my signature and I, as a person, am a party to I.17-02-002 proceeding. Therefore, as a courtesy, I will be filing this letter to the proceeding docket as an ex-parte communication and will email it to the most recent proceeding service list within 24 hrs from now.

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Issam Najm, Ph.D.  
Board President  
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council  
[IssamNajm@prnc.org](mailto:IssamNajm@prnc.org)